FBI Looks Deeper Into JFK 'Plot'

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 — The FBI is quietly looking into the current allegations that Lee Harvey Oswald plotted with others in New Orleans to assassinate President John F. Kennedy.

FBI agents, working through long-established channels, have kept carefully abreast of the investigation of New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison into the alleged plot.

Although the FBI declined comment, it was learned that no hard evidence of a genuine plot has been developed either by the Federal sleuths or by Garrison's probers.

The death of David W. Ferrie, who had called the Garrison probe a "big joke," the comments of a one-time private investigator named David F. Lewis, 26, who has spoken of a "conspiracy," and the activities of a Cuban exile, Bernardo Torres, 36, who contends he has information on the plot all have come unred Federal scrutiny.

Garrison has refused a suggestion by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., a member of the Warren Commission, to give his information directly to the Justice Department. He said Monday that he was confident he can prove there was a conspiracy behind the assassination and that his probe will result in arrests and convictions.

Much of the conspiracy talk is old ground, already covered by both the FBI and the lawyers for the Warren Commission in 1963 and 1964 at the time of the formal investigation.

For example, Ferrie confirmed in a newspaper interview Saturday that he had been questioned by the FBI at the time of the assassination. Evidence that the Warren group had considerable information on Ferrie is clearly shown by pages of testimony touching on him in volume eight of the Warren Report.

Ferrie's files when he was a Civil Air Patrol leader in a squadron near one that Oswald joined were studied at the time of the assassination by New Orleans Police Detective Frederic S. O'Sullivan.

Warren Commission Attorney Wesley J. Liebeler asked O'Sullivan, who had known both Oswald and Ferrie, whether "you know of any connection between Oswald and David Ferrie?"

"No, I have no personal knowledge of anything," said the detective.

There has been speculation in New Orleans that Ferrie was to have provided a getaway plane for Oswald in Dallas, but this, too, was studied three years ago by the FBI and the Warren Commission.